

181

From: Peter Hille [mailto:hilleptr@tds.net]

Sent: Sunday, July 11, 2010 9:21 PM

To: Lynette Biunno

Cc: Laurie Chapman

Subject: Nine Mile Creek!

This seems to be a very foolish way to spend a lot of money in a time when incomes are growing smaller and taxes are going up. I hope you will drop this idea which will bring nothing but extra dept to a State that can not balance it's budget even without the poor planning of this wishful dream.

Sincerely,

Peter Hille
7823 North Shore,
Spicer, MN 56288

182

From: Carla Bartolomei [mailto:Carla.Bartolomei@genmills.com]
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2010 6:10 PM
To: Lynette Biunno; John Keprios; ninemiletrail@threeriversparkdistric.org; rep.keith.downey@house.mn
Subject: Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail - public input to route 5F from impacted Edina Resident
Importance: High

To the Mayor, City Council Members, and the Park & Recreation Director for Edina,

Please see the attached letter regarding route 5F. I am an Edina resident whom is impacted by the proposed route and have significant concerns.

I would appreciate a response informing me how you plan to address these concerns as well as a scheduled date when I can come and participate in the
Thank you,

Nohad Helou

183

From: Jessica Hulbert [mailto:jehulbert@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2010 4:03 PM
To: NineMileTrail@ThreeRiversParkDistrict.org; Lynette Biunno
Subject: Support for Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail through Parkland

Please direct this email to:
Edina Mayor and City Council Members
Edina Parks Director John Keprios
Three Rivers Park District Commissioners
Three Rivers Park District Senior Planner Kelly Grissman

Edina Mayor, City Council, Parks Director, and TRPD Commissioners:

I support the Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail through Edina. While the trail would require a significant investment, I believe the many recreational and practical benefits of a regional trail to Edina residents would outweigh the cost. Edina is renowned as a very high quality community. A safe, comfortable, and inviting trail for walkers, joggers, and riders of all ages and skill levels would serve to promote our unique healthy Edina lifestyle and enjoyment of Edina's parks.

A wise investment in a regional trail would be an asset to the community. Recreational facilities are a decision factor for many prospective homeowners and a trail would be a selling point for Edina home sellers.

I believe the regional trail should run through parks to enhance the walking and riding experience, versus existing roadways which have increased levels of car exhaust and noise.

In summary, I urge you to approve the proposed regional trail and select routes through parks.

Sincerely,

Jessica Hulbert
6928 Eliot View Road
St. Louis Park, MN

184

From: snow333@comcast.net [mailto:snow333@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2010 8:46 PM
To: Lynette Biunno
Subject: Three Rivers Park District

July 12, 2010

Mr. Mayor Hovland
Councilwoman Joni Bennett
Councilwoman Mary Brindle
Councilman Scot Housh
Councilwoman Ann Swenson
Edina City Hall
4801 W. 50th Street
Edina, MN 55424

RE: Three Rivers Park District

I am writing to express my concern about the proposal of a bicycle path along Lincoln Drive and onto Vernon. My property is in the Edina Manor Homes just next to United Health and right off of Highway 169. Many of the people who live in this area are seniors who enjoy walking and often take along a pet.

I have concerns for the safety of myself and my neighbors due to the high speed that individuals riding bicycles currently travel at when passing by this area. In addition, I encourage you to drive down Vernon and examine the chain link fence to see the damage that has been caused due to cars that have come off the Highway and hit or knocked down the fence. I personally had individual in a car in front of me bounce off the left side of Highway 169 headed north, due a 360 degree turn and then go crashing into the fence.

At this time I feel that this would decrease the value of my home, which has already been affected by the current market. The bike path would decrease the width of Vernon which is widely used by individuals who work at United Health, those living in this area and persons going to the strip mall close by.

Respectfully,

P. Smith

185

From: Lee S. Chapman [mailto:leapin66@mac.com]
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2010 10:18 PM
To: NINEMILETRAIL@THREERIVERSPARKDISTRICT.ORG
Cc: Lynette Biunno
Subject: Fwd: URGENT

WE HAVE LIVED IN EDINA FOR NEARLY 50 YRS AND WE ARE TOTALLY AGAINST
THIS PROJECT FOR THE FOR THE REASONS LISTED BELOW
SANDY AND LEE CHAPMAN

Begin forwarded message:

From: Chappy6420@aol.com
Date: July 11, 2010 12:02:01 PM CDT
To: Chappy6420@aol.com
Subject: URGENT

Hi,
The environmental studies have been done and by law Three Rivers Park District (TRPD) has to give the public 30 days to make WRITTEN comments. The following are comments to send on to TRPD and the Edina City Council. If you are concerned about the excessive cost of this trail that each one of us will pay for, and the impact on the environment etc. please forward this letter on to TRPD and the Edina City Council.
IF YOU ARE GOING TO SEND THIS ON, DO IT NOW. WRITTEN COMMENT PERIOD CLOSSES WEDNESDAY, JULY 14TH.

LAURIE

Below are our comments on the economic, social, technical, and environmental assessments to be presented to the Edina City Council for the purpose of determining the route, or rejecting all routes) of the Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail through the City of Edina. We expect these comments to be entered into the official record.

Economic Assessment:

1. No construction timelines were included in the assessments. Construction costs were given in 2010 dollars. No provisions were made to adjust construction costs if actual work on the project takes place in future years. The assessment needs to include a construction timetable and an estimate of costs associated with new construction dates.
2. Construction costs were developed before the EAW was released to the public. Environmental concerns could dramatically increase costs. This includes the cost, timing, and compliance with all necessary permits and mitigation efforts. The assessment needs to include a list of all necessary permits and/or mitigation efforts and a timetable and costs associated with the permits and mitigations.
3. Financing costs were not included in the cost estimates. TRPD has historically financed capital improvements primarily with General Revenue Bonds. At the present bond rates this would add approximately \$11 million dollars to the \$20 million dollar construction costs. The assessment needs to include timing and details of construction funding including grants and bonding.

4. The effect of declining property values surely impacts TRPD's operating budget and accordingly on the ability of TRPD to provide safety, maintenance and replacement of the trail infrastructure over the next twenty five years was not discussed. A May 13, 2009 article in the Star-Tribune states "the district is on course to max out its levy limit by 2011 or 2012". The assessment needs to include detail on how TRPD will fund its maintenance, safety and other on-going responsibilities.

5. TRPD used past TRPD projects to calculate unit costs. This is internal TRPD cost information and is not verifiable. RS Means is the generally accepted source of construction costs. The assessment needs to be based upon construction costs from RS Means.

6. The trail is to be constructed concurrently With Nine Mile Creek Watershed District work on stream alignment and stream bank improvement. The assessment needs to contain data regarding the cost and timing of the NMCWD project. The assessment needs to identify how these projects will impact adjacent properties.

7. The trail is likely to cost in excess of \$35 Million dollars after factoring in construction delays, financing, and cost overruns. These are difficult economic times with most units of government burdened with debt and struggling to meet budgets for essential services. This is not the time to be spending this much money, incurring more debt, and creating more unfunded liabilities, on recreation. The assessment failed to seek out materially lower cost alternatives. The CAT Analysis team needs to develop less expensive alternatives such as those outlined in the City of Edina Comprehensive Bicycle

Transportation Plan. The assessment also needs to detail the consequences of delaying decisions on the trail until the economy improves.

8. The indirect costs, such as first responder, incremental staff, accommodations to area residents, local design changes, reserves for future liability, etc. that accrue to Edina and TRPD's tax base as a result of the trail were not addressed. The Assessment needs to identify these indirect costs and include them in the total cost of the trail.

Social Assessment:

1. The number of residents living adjacent to public lands through which the trail would pass was not defined. Properties were counted, but it is people, not properties that make up the social structure and are affected by trail activity. The assessment needs to include the number of people living adjacent to public lands through which the trail would pass.

2. Protecting the safety of the very old and very young users of Walnut Ridge Park was not addressed. All park users entering north of the creek will have to cross an active bike trail to enter the park. The proposed trail crosses within a few feet of the children's play area. This plan presents unacceptable risks to children and seniors. The assessment needs to include a plan to protect the safety of small children and senior citizen walkers.

3. The question of noise resulting from the trail on adjacent residents was not addressed. There was no data on noise levels generated by the trail. The roll of trees (and their removal) as sound buffers was not addressed. The assessment needs to include data on noise generated by the trail, how the noise will be mitigated, and what effect the removed trees will have on ambient noise.

4. The visual impact of 6000 feet of raised board walk in the trail corridor was minimized. To postulate that 6000 feet of a structure rising 12 feet above a high quality wetland will create no visual impact defies common sense. The assessment needs to use common sense and community standards to define "visual impact".

5. The differing needs of bikers for recreation, transportation, and physical training was not addressed. Bikers using a trail for transportation need to maintain relatively high speed, use the trail in all seasons, have the trail lighted and available evening hours, and have good access and egress. Bikers using the trail for physical training need to maintain high speed and have a smooth running surface. A regional recreational trail has a mix of walkers, family bikers, roller-blades, and joggers, which inhibit transportation and/or physical training bikers.

In the often cited survey of park user preferences, all types of bikers and walkers were included in one category. The second most desired feature was maintaining natural areas. The 2007 City of Edina Comprehensive Bicycle Transportation Plan does not show any of the creek routes of the Nine Mile Creek trail as a recommended primary route. The assessment needs to indicate that the regional trail does not meet the needs of bikers for transportation and physical training nor does it preserve an area as natural.

Environmental assessment:

1. The trees to be removed were calculated by area. Individual trees will have differing effects on the local environment. The assessment needs to contain data on the species, number, diameter range, volume, and location of individual trees to be removed.

2. A change in classification of the 352 acres of "Natural and Open Space Areas" affected by the trail was not discussed. The assessment needs to contain detail on how these acres will be classified if the trail is constructed.

3. The effect of 6000 feet of raised platform and approximately 1000 piling located in a flood plain and floodway was not discussed. The assessment needs to contain information on the potential for these structures to trap debris during a flood and the effect of this debris on flood levels, structure stability, and maintenance costs.

4. The EAW contains many inconclusive and ambiguous statements using "may" and/or "could" regarding the trails effect on animals. The assessment needs to be much more conclusive and informative with regard to the effect of trail use on animal populations, species, habitat, and distribution.

NINEMILETRAIL@THREERIVERSPARKDISTRICT.ORG

EDINAMAIL@CI.EDINA.MN.US

186

From: Julie Boemer [mailto:rgbjlb@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2010 8:51 PM
To: Lynette Biunno
Subject: Proposed Bike Path

July 12, 2010

To: Mayor Hovland and Members of the Edina City Council

VIA E-MAIL: edinamail@ci.edina.mn.us

As you know (a few) members from our complex and community were in attendance at your council meeting on July 6, 2010

Our spoke person, Mr. Thomas Moses, voiced our concerns regarding the proposed bicycle path along Lincoln Drive and on Vernon Ave.

It is very important that we raise our concern regarding this critical issue.

We have many seniors living in our complex (Manor Homes of Edina), at Edina West and in several private homes and apartments along the proposed route #3. Walking along Lincoln Dr is a form of exercise for many of them summer and winter.

The Metro Bus 146B also runs along Lincoln Dr twice in the morning taking commuters downtown and returns early evening servicing the people for transportation to work.

Our property is adjacent to United Health Group to the north and we encounter heavy traffic from the north and south from their employees. We also contend with traffic from the little strip of businesses along Lincoln Drive.

We enjoy walking on our sidewalk with our pets, as do many others. My concern is the safety of this bike path. Bicyclists have been riding either one or two abreast. They go very fast [I would say 30 to 35 mph.

Privacy is also a great issue for the front of our complex. Cutting into our property line or widening the street for a bike path would be inconceivable. Drivers, joggers, usually have I-pods in their ears, and I can safely say that car drivers at least 8 out of ten are talking on cell phones.

The cost is another issue, #1 value of our property and homes have already decreased due to the economy and current real estate market. We at Edina Manor Homes are trying to enhance our landscape and encourage buyers into our community; and #2 the cost of borrowing to build the path plus the cost to Edina taxpayers for maintaining it in the winter ---

Thank you for giving our request serious consideration.

Respectfully,

Julie and Richard Boemer

187

MEMO

FROM: *MARIA MELKEN MALOOLY*
6967 LANGFORD CT
EDINA, MN 55436

DATE: *JULY 12, 2010*

TO: *MAYOR HOVLAND AND MEMBERS OF THE EDINA CITY COUNCIL*

RE: *PROPOSED NINE MILE CREEK TRAIL*

As a former cyclist and cross country skier (and now a walker), the mother of two avid cyclists, and a 25 year resident of the city of Edina, I have to raise my voice in opposition to the proposed Route 3 (along Lincoln Dr and Vernon Ave). I do it out of concern for the **safety** of multiple walkers, cyclists and many, many drivers.

Human Safety ---Considering the fact that there are many bike paths and parks in this area I can't fathom the need to add more miles of paths, particularly in such precarious area.

I am certain you are aware of the amount of traffic and driveways from the several multiple dwellings and businesses along the proposed route. Also the buses that are used by commuters to and from Minneapolis.

You will be depriving our senior citizens of a safe walking area—if you travel this route each day, as I do, to and from my France Ave office, you'd notice the amount of individuals walking in summer and winter on the sidewalk. For many elderly who take their walks each day this is their only form of exercise.

COSTS---I also object to the **expense**, particularly during these trying economic times. Why would anyone consider borrowing millions of dollars to develop what can very well be considered an unnecessary project? Of course, after construction comes maintenance, whose taxes will be raised to meet those expenses?

Real Estate values---we have been informed that the proximity of this path to our homes will add to the already depreciated values suffered due to the economic downturn.

Public Safety ---at the meetings I attended the issue of public safety was never addressed. I find it hard to believe that no one has considered the possibility of vandalism and other crimes being perpetrated on property and humans in a poorly lit and unprotected area.

Having lived on a small lake forced to be made accessible to everyone in Hennepin county and beyond and having observed the damage to lawns, private property, as well as attempted robberies and intimidation of children playing in their yards I will assume that the City will have to hire additional officers to patrol this area. More negative impact on property values and taxes.

I strongly urge each and every one of you to consider the negative impact this route will have on this community. Consider the long term consequences and additional expense you'd be imposing on already burdened residents. I am certain this would not want to be a legacy a public official leaves behind.

I look forward to the public hearings on this issue.

Thank you for your consideration and your service.

Maria Melken Malooly

188

From: Carla Bartolomei [mailto:Carla.Bartolomei@genmills.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2010 12:17 PM
To: Carla Bartolomei; Lynette Biunno; John Keprios; rep.keith.downey@house.mn; ninemiletrail@threeriversparkdistrict.org
Cc: Emelie Helou; Luis Bartolomei; Mary Brindle; Paul L. Ratelle
Subject: Edina - Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail - Input on Segment 5F

I am writing this letter to convey deep concern with the proposed 5F segment of the regional trail.

The addition of route 5F was a 'late in the process' addition and as a result there was no neighborhood representation nor a full assessment conducted by the CAT. ALL routes that are proposed to the City Council should be assessed with a level of rigor so as to adequately represent the interests of the Edina community and the HOMEOWNERS most impacted. I am confident that if there was representation, this part of the trail would not have been seriously considered in its current state and that NUMEROUS issues would have surfaced.

These are just some of the challenges that Route 5F as currently proposed poses:

SAFETY OF BIKERS/ PEDESTRIANS:

- The route as proposed runs alongside a very busy street and has many intersections including 3 entrance and exit ramps to hwy 62 and an intersection with a frontage road on the south side
 - PEOPLE DO NOT STOP AS THEY MAKE RIGHT TURNS ONTO HIGHWAYS –this could be a huge safety risk for the bikers
 - Intersection management and compliance will be a great safety concern
- Tracy avenue is a main road from Hwy 62 to the neighborhood communities in the area – it is very busy and not ideal for a bike path to run alongside it safely.
- It is also a main route for young, teenage drivers that are heading to and from high school utilize – and they are not the most careful drivers.
 - A young boy on his bike was recently hit by a driver on this very street. This HIGHLIGHTS the need NOT to cram a bike route into a busy road with little space for it and with multiple intersections that need to be managed.
- The route as currently outlined proposes the trail to go alongside this street – yet there is not sufficient space to separate the bike path from the cars on the east side of the road without significantly encroaching into the privacy of homeowners on Doron Drive OR narrowing a road that needs to remain as wide as it currently is to enable smooth running of traffic and minimize jams and dangerous driving.

PRIVACY & SAFETY OF HOMEOWNERS:

- The east side of Valley View/ Tracy as it traverses up and over Hwy 62 toward the fire department has a steep hill that leads down to the BACKYARDS of several homes in the area (Doron Drive etc....). Putting a trail at the top of this hill would provide bikers and walkers alike access to the backyards and a birds-eye view into the bedrooms and living spaces of these homes – a definite invasion of privacy and an increase in safety risk.

- I would never feel comfortable allowing my children to play freely in the backyard of these homes when a public access trail is running right alongside the backyard.
- Backyards should remain private and SAFE for families to use without concern of intrusion from strangers and commuters
- Back yard intrusion should be treated with higher concern than front yards.
- A PRIVACY WALL WOULD BE A MUST if this trail were to be put up in the manner proposed

HOME VALUE & ONGOING MAINTENANCE

- As proposed this trail segment is sure to reduce the value of the homes in this area of Edina.
- I have not been satisfied with the plan (or lack thereof) that would be put in place to MAINTAIN this trail and keep it clean and safe from Graffiti, debris, or other hazards in the coming years
- The issue of litter and maintenance would be worse on 5F if it runs on the East side as bikers would have easy access to 'dumping' into the homeowners backyards on Doron Drive with little recourse.

ROUTE 5F SHOULD NOT EVEN BE CONSIDERED SINCE IT WAS PROPOSED SO LATE IN THE GAME ***WITHOUT FULL DUE DILIGENCE PLACED ON EVALUATING IT AND WITHOUT NEIGHBORHOOD REPRESENTATION***. The city should not allow this type of shifting and low ball tactics. The proposal of route 5F went against the rules of the project and should not be given consideration until the neighborhood has had a chance to speak on this issue.

Please Note – There is an opportunity to re-route the path for segment 5 in a manner to address all these issues and find a winning solution for all interested parties. I invite you to come walk the route with me and discuss the possibilities. Here are just some initial examples of what could be done:

- There is opportunity to re-route the path so that it is NOT on an already busy public road, and avoids impacting the creek in a significant manner
 - Install a 4 way stop on the intersection of Valley lane and Tracy. Have the route cross Tracy to the West side of the road and then go along side in front and AROUND to the west of the Church.
 - Provide a separate bridge for the trail over the highway that connects behind the fire station on the south side of Hwy 62 to avoid impacting entrance and exit ramps.
 - This will keep the trail off the main road and protect both the PRIVACY AND SAFETY OF THE HOMEOWNERS as well as the SAFETY of the bikers.
 - - OR-
 - Adopt path 5D or 5E as they have more potential to avoid the above stated issues and modify those as needed to optimize

Last but definitely not least – I ask that the council think carefully about approving this trail. Simply stated –those who want this trail should volunteer to have it run through their yards. I am not one to volunteer my tax \$ and yard privacy for this, nor are the residents on Doron Drive. I have seen SO MANY signs and SO MANY battles against passing this trail through our neighborhoods these past years that I truly doubt that this is an item that

Edina residents want. *If it is so important to have this trail – Edina needs to find a way to make it happen on roadways that will not impact Edina residents home values, privacy rights or safety, AS WELL AS protect our environment. The trail as currently designed is failing to do this.*

Thank you for your consideration,

Carla Bartolomei

952-947-9112

189

From: Wendy Meadley [mailto:socialwendy@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2010 6:53 AM
To: Lynette Biunno
Cc: nanmead@aol.com
Subject: IMMEDIATE ATTENTION PLEASE :: CONCERN & OPPOSITION TO NINE MILE CREEK EXPANSION

Mayor Jim Hovland
City of Edina
4801 W. 50th Street
Edina, MN 55424

This is in answer to the request by the Park District for comments relating to the proposed Nine Mile Creek Corridor. As citizens of Edina and after attending two park district planning meetings, and one city council meeting directed to a discussion of the trail, I am setting forth my comments.

The entire event seems to be based on a survey that asked Edina residents if they would like more bike and walking trails and the Edina City Council approval to move forward in planning and implantation. It would be difficult to say "no" to the survey question and the council's action to move forward. As with most macro typed proposals the devil is in the details and from a reasonable original thought process it has become a night-mare to many concerned citizens of the community. The sentiment against the trail as proposed has been overwhelming at the meetings which I have attended.

In our particular case we are located in the #5 assessment area as set forth in the Park District Planning. As is currently shown the trail would come across the Crosstown highway and essentially border the current soccer fields below the Creek Valley grade school on the west and south sides. It would then run directly behind our property and that of our neighbors, the Swansons, before extending eastward through the woods to the high school fields and then north past over the nine-mile creek marsh back to the Crosstown highway at or about Tracy Avenue.

When we purchased our lot many years ago it was done based on the wooded beauty and privacy of backing up to Nine Mile Creek. The value of our property today is enhanced by its location. To put a 16' bike trail behind our home is entirely without justification and threatens not only our values and privacy, but also our concern for safety.

In addition, virtually surrounding the soccer fields with a 16' foot trail is at best inappropriate. It would come at the base of a large hill on the west side which is a popular sledding hill in the winter for many children which would preclude it from ever being opened (played) in the winter. These fields are used almost continuously during weeknights in the spring and summer with not only the parking lots but the surrounding Nordic Circle full of cars. Putting a 16' trail

between the parking lot and the fields on the south side would provide an unnecessary danger to children and parents going back and forth. The possible alternative of putting the trail on the north and east sides would make it subject to flooding with every significant rainfall.

To cap it off the extension of the trail across the marsh makes no sense. In addition to the obvious cost and risk of flooding, is the distraction to the wild life and serenity of the marsh for what is deemed to be a "nice ride" for bike rides. This is not a reasonable trade-off.

As with other citizens the idea of a new bike trail is not the point of contention. Put it along roadways where its impact would be minimal or not at all. Please do not let an original reasonable approach result in actions which are vigorously opposed by many concerned citizens. Public meetings should be held before any final decisions are made.

Bud & Nancy Meadley
6420 Nordic Circle
Edina, MN 55439

190

From: Richard Dalquist [mailto:rich@planesolutionsllc.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2010 3:33 PM
To: Lynette Biunno
Subject: Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail

Dear Mayor and city council members:

I am an Edina native and also an avid biker. I ride all around the metro area and favor the Three Rivers trail system since it has become quite comprehensive. However, Edina is lagging far behind other West suburban communities (Eden Prairie, Minnetonka) in developing good quality and safe biking trails. The proposed Nine Mile Creek trail segment is an important connector which will enhance not only rider safety but add to the benefits of living in the great city of Edina. If I was lucky enough to have the trail run past my property I would be very pleased.

Rich Dalquist
5220 Richwood Drive
Edina, MN 55436

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: Privileged or confidential information may be contained in this email transmission (and any attachments accompanying it). The information is intended only for the use of the intended recipient named above. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or the taking of any action in reliance on the contents of this emailed information, except its direct delivery to the intended recipient named above, is strictly prohibited. If you have recei

191

From: Blanchett, Neal [mailto:nblanchett@carlson.com]

Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2010 3:09 PM

To: Lynette Biunno

Subject: Nine Mile Creek Trail, EAW and Plans

Dear City Staff and Decision-makers:

I am writing to comment on the recent EAW and express my support for the proposed trail along Nine Mile Creek. I live with my family in the Cornelia/Lake Edina area, and I am an attorney practicing land use and real estate law. I have helped to draft and served as counsel for many EAWs, and I have also reviewed numerous EAWs to oppose and find flaws with them. I have reviewed the EAW for the Nine-Mile Creek Trail and I believe it provides an adequate and thorough review of the potential environmental impacts. The standard for the government entities charged with approving the EAW is whether or not it provides sufficient information to conclude the project either does or does not have the potential to create significant environmental impact. I believe that the EAW does provide enough information to decide this question.

Based on my review and knowledge of the area, the EAWs study of impacts shows that the trail will not create significant environmental impact. It's appropriate to consider the overall impact in proportion to the impacts already created in the area. The majority of the impacted area through Edina is fully-developed, suburbanized homesites. Many of these were mass-graded when developed, a fair number were graded to walk-outs which increase drainage to the creek, and each of them typically includes 2000 to 5000 or more square feet of impervious surface, depending on the size of the home and length of the driveway. Even a small home with a 1,000-square-foot footprint and 1,000 square feet of driveway has twice as much impervious surface as 100 feet of 10-foot wide trail. And that calculation does not include the paved street serving that home. Again, assuming 100-foot lot width and 25-foot pavement width, each home on the creek brings with it 2,500 feet of pavement, or pavement equivalent to 250 feet of trail. I will only go into detail on this impervious surface issue, but as you review the EAW you can see that this rough calculation applies to other areas of impact as well. As the EAW notes, Nine Mile Creek has been compromised from its pristine state. However, the vast majority of that compromise occurred with the development of the area, and the rooftops, driveways, pavement, grading and landscaping that went into the homes and yards area residents currently enjoy. The incremental impact of the trail is insignificant in comparison.

Regarding the alternative trail routes, the creek route is vastly better. The creek route provides separation from car traffic, so it is safer for kids, which is a major concern in a trail connecting to the Valley View, Creek Valley, and Edina High School campuses. The creek route also allows trail users to enjoy the plants and wildlife along the creek. Currently the creek is mostly a hidden treasure; the trail will allow more people to see it, enjoy it, and to protect it. Every trail user is a potential protector of the creek. In addition the trail will be a tremendous amenity for those who live along it, who will be able to walk out their door and walk, run, hike, bike, rollerblade and ski for miles in a natural setting safe from dangerous traffic. Trail opponents cite privacy as one of their concerns, but more people prefer trails to privacy, as is shown by several studies that show a boost in market value for adjacent homes and neighborhoods after trail construction.

The trail will also be a huge amenity for Edina, especially kids and parents. Edina is currently car-centric, as are most suburbs developed in the 1950s and later. Traffic, parking and rush hour is a huge hassle, especially for late-afternoon and early evening activities. The trail would allow many more kids and parents to park their cars and bike or walk to these activities. The eastern half, where I live, will allow us

an easy bike ride to France and York Avenues for errands, shopping, and restaurants. All these benefits provide more opportunity for fresh air, exercise, utility, and fun, and a break from driving (or sitting) in traffic or staring at a screen.

I would urge your approval of the EAW, a finding of no potential for significant environmental impact, and support for the creek trail routing.

Neal Blanchett
4737 Hibiscus Avenue
Edina, MN 55435
952-920-9306

192

From: Eugene Kranz [mailto:ekranz@comcast.net]
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2010 4:57 PM
To: kgrissman@threeriversparkdistrict.org; rlubar@comcast.net; Lynette Biunno; Wayne Houle; 'Peter McCarthy'
Subject: Public Input - Regional Trail

Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail
Public Input Opportunity

From: Gene & Penny Kranz
6613 Cahill Road
Edina, MN 55439
952-944-6674
We live along the creek in Section 11

We attended the information meeting on June 30 at South View Middle School.

When we went to the gym and looked at what is proposed for our section (11), which is a raised boardwalk, our first impression was that it looked massive. We cannot envision such a large structure going through the creek area behind our house. It would be larger than the creek itself during certain times of the year. We feel that the boardwalk would destroy the uniqueness of the creek area.

We oppose the part of the trail that would go along the creek in Section 11.

We believe that the process of the actual construction of the boardwalk would in itself be destructive to the creek area.

Another thing that was mentioned at the meeting is that 4-1/2 acres of forest in Edina would be lost in the construction of the bike trail – we oppose this deforestation.

We believe that the projected cost of the Regional Trail (\$20 million) is too low – that the cost could be higher.

It is necessary for Gene to use a scooter because of a disability and he will not be able to use a boardwalk because it would cause too much jarring to his spine.

193

-----Original Message-----

From: Lorrie Larson [mailto:jl Larson53@comcast.net]

Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2010 4:25 PM

To: Lynette Biunno

Subject: Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail Project

To: Mayor James Hovland and Council Members Joni Bennett, Mary Brindle, Scot Housh and Ann Swenson

Dear Edina City Council:

I am writing you to share my disapproval of the plans put forward for the changes to 9 Mile Creek and the proposed bike path. I STRONGLY urge you not to rush forward but to reexamine the numerous issues raised on the current proposal. PLEASE hold additional forums with the citizens of Edina NOT just to voice your plans but to hear our voices and answer the many questions this project has raised. We need a true dialogue with exchange of ideas and accurate and updated information and ideas on both sides of the issue.

I am SHOCKED that in this economy that such a huge expense is even considered especially when no actual funds are in hand to pay for the project. It is unbelievable to think that more bonds will be sought when Three Rivers Park already has \$85,000,000 in debt outstanding. How do you justify this action of seeking additional debt that will drive the total owed for the taxpayer to well over \$100,000,000? \$20 million is the low estimate with financing costs that could reach 11 million along with potential cost overruns. This would put the 9 Mile Creek bike trail at a cost near \$950+/foot of trail.

Aside from the cost, it is UNTHINKABLE that beautiful rows of mature trees will be sacrificed for yards of tarred paths and running the path through prime acres of park land and high valued wetlands is disturbing and sickens me. The destruction of these valued lands and placing a bike trail several feet in height and width with it fenced in is not only unsightly but displaces the wildlife that make this their habitat. Where will these birds, deer, mice and other rodents, along with some species living there considered "endangered" go? The Minneapolis Star just this past week printed an article "Lyme-Carrying Ticks Go Urban". With the mice and small animals who are the ticks' chief source of blood food in these areas, you will now be sending out bikers and hikers into this area which puts them at additional risk for what for many has become not only a devastating disease that requires drug therapy if NOT recognized and treated in a timely manner.

The council has said a survey indicated that Edina residents wanted more biking/hiking trails. Their second desire was keeping/enhancing nature and natural habitats. The question was NEVER addressed if they wanted these paths at the expense of destroying natural habitats and resident areas. This needs to be looked at closely. For my Parkwood Knolls neighborhood, making Walnut Ridge Park a trail head will have a NEGATIVE impact in the neighborhood. With increase in the traffic on the streets, lack of parking which is already occurring with hockey and lacrosse games and safety issues for the young and elderly, this is NOT viewed at all as a

favorable choice. We already have sign at Lincoln Drive and Dovre Drive that says "local traffic only" as workers at United Health and Opus cut through the neighborhood at speeds above posted to avoid the freeways and already cause safety issues for us.

Please read the CAT-EAW assessment comments carefully. As stated, these comments MUST be entered into the official record and addressed ACCURATELY.

This project needs to go back to the drawing board and reassessed. Additional data needs to be collected on REAL cost, REAL irreparable damage, REAL effects on the neighborhood and REAL damage to our environment and properties and REAL desires of residents when they learn about these answers.

You cannot in good conscience go forward with this project. I urge you to not rush into a project with no current monies available to cover the cost and one that can destroy areas that cannot be undone.

Sincerely,

Lorrie Larson
6612 Londonderry Drive
Edina, MN 55436

194

From: kirkjohnsonster@gmail.com [mailto:kirkjohnsonster@gmail.com] **On Behalf Of** Kirk Johnson
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2010 10:41 PM
To: NineMileTrail@ThreeRiversParkDistrict.org; Lynette Biunno
Subject: Support for NMC Regional Trail, Creek Route

Dear Edina Mayor, City Council, Parks Director, and TRPD Commissioners (please see forwarding information at the end): Please serve current and future residents by approving the NMC Regional Trail. And, your approval for a substantially creek- and park-based route, particularly one that connects with the north end of the EHS campus, will result in the best outcome.

The gap: Since becoming an Edina resident in 1976 as an elementary school student and then graduating from Edina High School (EHS) and now still an Edina resident with 3 kids in our Edina schools, I and my fellow Edina residents have NEVER been able to enjoy a regional multi-use trail in Edina that actually connects with other trail systems: The value of this NMC regional trail, if approved for a creek-based route, is HUGE. If you look at the trail implementations in neighboring communities, Edina shows a relatively large gap.

Rationale for (a) approving the trail and (b) aligning it with the creek and EHS :

1. Select routes along the creek and in the open public non-street areas -- if you approve a regional trail that is not substantially creek-based, it can waste money. Three reasons: (a) street-based "trails" are not desirable to users that want to be away from motorized traffic, (b) low margin of value-added experience because having a trail away from creeks, forests, etc. is hardly different than a well-designed complete street, and (c) any trail that is really a street side path is statistically higher for crash rates because of the additional intersecting driveways and other intersection hazards, especially for inline skaters and bicyclists. Regarding bicycling specifically, we already have approved on-street bike route accommodations approved as part of the Comprehensive Plan -- those routes will serve bicyclists well for street riding, but they do NOT serve a huge population that strongly desires to use trails in parkland areas. So, a set of routes that specifically align along the creek and open public land away from streets is the **BEST VALUE** for trail users.

2. Select a route connecting the north side of the High School: Select a route that goes adjacent to the school. Why? Offers staff and students more human-powered options to get to EHS. Can you imagine the treasure it will be for athletics training, commuting for many staff and students, and environmental studies options? A regional trail connecting on the north side of the school, combined with a separate network of bike lanes near the school, will be a key factor in (a) reducing carbon emissions and (b) alleviating some traffic issues currently caused by the high use of automobiles going to and from EHS and Valley View Middle school on every single school day and also for the numerous sports and performance arts events.

3. Many environmental issues alleviated by a creek-based trail: Do not be misled about the relatively small group of property owners, many of whom have directly caused pollution issues for Nine Mile Creek with pesticides and fertilizer runoff, two of the factors that have degraded

the health of the creek. A well-designed multi-use trail combined with water quality improvements will be a win-win for humans and the environment. The fact is that the creek is already in a developed area in many places with houses nearby, and the current seclusion of this public land has led to many instances of improper care. Other creek-based trails managed by Three Rivers Park District have helped to improve and maintain the surrounding natural habitat, and getting more visibility to these areas by non-motorized trail users can actually provide an ongoing safety check on environmental conditions because the likelihood is higher that an environmental issue (e.g., trash, buckthorn, etc.) will be observed and reported. More people caring and enjoying the environment will lead to support for planting species natural to this area.

4. Property values in general benefit: A multitude of studies document a positive correlation between proximity to walking and biking amenities with (a) lower DOM (days on market) and (b) higher sales prices. This is because home buyers more than ever are looking for facilities to walk, hike, bike, and move around without relying on cars.

5. I'm speaking from deep experience: Nearly every day, in all seasons (yes, even the winter) I use multi-use trails in neighboring St. Louis Park and Minneapolis for my daily bicycle commute from Edina to downtown Minneapolis. I use these in combination with on-street bike lanes, bike boulevards, and various signed routes, plus just normal streets. Where do I see the best landscaping, natural beauty, and wildlife undisturbed by motorized traffic? It is near the SW LRT Trail, the Cedar Lake Trail, and the Midtown Greenway. I have also ridden the Luce Line and the Dakota Trails. I observe excellent quality in trails and the environment, especially when these trails come close to residential properties. I have talked with leaders, pioneers and various commissioners in a vast array of leadership positions and the message and experience is clear: All trail projects have opposition, but when the projects are completed, the opposing thoughts are substantially dispelled because nearly everyone is pleasantly surprised with how wonderful the trail becomes.

In summary and for the reasons above, I urge you to approve the proposed regional trail and select routes that align with the creek and connect parks and the Edina High School.

Thank you for taking my input into consideration and for all your work!

Sincerely,

Kirk Johnson

5844 ST JOHNS AVE, EDINA, MN 55424; 612-916-9966;

Please direct this email to:

Edina Mayor and City Council Members

Edina Parks Director John Keprios

Three Rivers Park District Commissioners

Three Rivers Park District Senior Planner Kelly Grissman

--

Kirk Logan Johnson

Kirk.johnson@LoganLogic.com

(612) 916-9966 (Cell)

195

From: LMARY691@aol.com [mailto:LMARY691@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2010 10:21 PM
To: Lynette Biunno; ninemilecreektrail@threeriversparkdistrict.org
Subject: Nine Mile Creek Trail

July 13, 2009

Three Rivers Park District
Edina City Council
Edina Park Board

I attended the Multi-Purpose Bike Trail presentation by Three Rivers recently. My displeasure is great. I did not hear one person indicate they wanted the trail on Nine Mile Creek. After the slide show, the crowd stood and applauded in unison when someone said we should let our city leaders know how much we oppose this.

Please do not put the trail on Nine Mile Creek. The reasons are apparent: too costly, crime, safety, trash, harmful to the environment, plant life and wildlife. Now we learn Three Rivers is suggesting a raised boardwalk through the floodplain. How foolish to spend our money in the current economic situation when there is an alternate route on the streets that would be way, way cheaper and could connect the trail with our neighbors. Richfield put most of the trail on their streets.

Doing the right thing is not always easy. Once the environment is damaged there is no going back. I want Three Rivers Park, the Edina Park Board and Edina City Council to keep the trail off the creek.

I am counting on all of you to represent me and vote no to the trail along Nine Mile Creek.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary J. Landberg
5408 Creek View Lane
Edina MN 55439

196

July 13, 2010

Kelly Grissman
Senior Manager of Planning
Three Rivers Park District
3000 Xenium Lane North
Plymouth, MN 55441

Re: Comments concerning Route 7 on the Draft EAW for the Proposed Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail—Edina Segment

Dear Ms. Grissman:

As homeowners on the proposed Route 7 section of the Proposed Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail—Edina Segment, we have several concerns.

SAFETY

- 1) Heavy traffic on Tracy/Valley View. This is an MTC bus route with 6 stops on Route 7 which puts it in conflict with the proposed trail. It is a major artery for Valley View Middle School, Edina Performing Arts Center, Edina High School busses and high school students driving to and from school. In addition, it is the route followed by busses from visiting schools for sporting and other events.
- 2) This is a major route for emergency vehicles as it is in close proximity (same road) as Edina Fire Station #1 and experiences heavy use by fire trucks, ambulances and police cars.
- 3) The route would crossover multiple driveways creating safety concerns for users of the trail and homeowners. This is especially troubling when school is in session.
- 4) Parking would be an issue along this trail for trail users and home owners.
- 5) Vandalism and crime are also a concern.

LARGE LOSS OF HOME MARKET VALUES

With the trail on the east side of Tracy/Valley View it would affect 12 homes, some of which are already in close proximity to the street. The trail would come within 10 feet of one front door and very close to other front doors. Two properties have in ground swimming pools which would come in conflict with the trail as well as numerous privacy fences and many mature trees that would have to be removed. The proposal says there will be no economic obsolescence caused by the trail, but our real estate appraiser highly disagrees with this because of the trail's close proximity to the homes on this proposed route 7.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 1) Homes on route 7 are close to the creek and we have wildlife, including Blanding's turtles, come on our property. (Pictures to verify turtles on property upon request.)
- 2) In addition to wildlife, noise and air pollution are additional environmental concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

William and Rosalyn Korst
5624 Hillside Court
Edina, Minnesota 55439
phone: (952) 944-8068

197

-----Original Message-----

From: Carl Follstad, home [mailto:cfollstad@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2010 10:13 PM

To: NineMileTrail@ThreeRiversParkDistrict.org; Lynette Biunno

Subject: Routing of 9 Mile Creek community trail through Edina

Edina City Officers and Three Rivers Park District Officers,

As a resident of Edina, I am dismayed at the negative FUD (fear, uncertainty, doubt) being spread by the home owners living along the proposed nature trail in Edina. These folks represent a tiny percentage of the population of Edina yet their collective voices could force us to walk, ride and rollerblade along city streets while the 9 mile creek area continues to meander through their property. Are they using the property along the creek? Is it being actively cared for by them? Likely not. Likely it is full of brackish water and surrounded by overgrown vegetation.

Edina is a beautiful city and the city leaders have recognized this beauty. It is celebrated and shared openly in our many parks and open areas. What a great place Edina is to live and work in! Please continue the wonderful tradition of "keeping Edina beautiful" by opening up 9 mile creek for enjoyment by everyone!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Carl Follstad
5709 Bernard Place
Edina

952 848 1744
cfollstad@gmail.com

July 13, 2010

Dear Mayor Hovland and elected officials:

This letter registers our concerns on the proposed route for the Nine Mile Creek Biking Trail as it pertains to section 5. We are 35 yr residents at our current address. We are very familiar with the parks, the city's and school's playing fields, the school, the marsh and wetlands, and the traffic flow and parking challenges. As retired residents, we are also very aware of expenses and taxes.

We are against running the biking trail as it is described on your website as section 5 for the following reasons:

- The wetlands consistently flood, not only in the spring but also following heavy rains throughout the summer. Compensating for this by building elevated bike paths over wetlands is not a wise use of tax dollars. Maintenance of board walks adds further to the expense.
- The soccer fields below Creek Valley School are used extensively during the spring, summer, and fall; generating considerable traffic and parking. Adding bikes, cars, and pedestrians to this mix of children and adults seems to be inviting hazardous and risky encounters. Routing the bike path near or by the fields imposes a danger that is not needed.
- The proximity of Creek Valley Grade School to the proposed path injects another element of concern. Children are a vulnerable population. Within the building, security is a high priority. The playground, after school and summer activity programs, and adjacent hill and playing spaces encourage younger children to gather. Bringing a bike path close to the area where children gather and where supervision varies by age, does not seem prudent.
- While some citizens enjoy traversing pristine wilderness areas and justify their development because of this enjoyment, other citizens think that there is higher intrinsic value in allowing a wilderness area to remain just that with very limited access and use. We align with those who value having areas within our community that remain in a natural state rather than developed to bring large numbers of bikers and walkers through it.

In conclusion, we urge you to adopt a plan for the bike trail that maximizes existing roadways, protects wetlands, avoids high traffic areas around parks and fields, and conserves financial resources so that taxes are not increased. For these reasons, we object to the more expensive route 5.

Sincerely,

Joanna Swanson
6424 Nordic Circle, Edina

Jack Swanson

199

-----Original Message-----

From: Diane Fansler-Wald [mailto:dianefansler@yahoo.com]

Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2010 12:24 PM

To: Lynette Biunno; Kelly Grissman

Cc: Polly Bowles; Keith Downey

Subject: Fw: edina trail

Please print and distribute the enclosed forwarded article to:

Mayor Jim Hovland

Councilmembers Joni Bennett, Mary Brindle, Scot Housh, and Ann Swensen John Keprios,
Edina Park and Recreation Director Alice Hulbert, Bike Edina Task Force

Also to:

Kelly Grissman, ThreeRiversParkDistrict

The article "On a bik..." is from today's Star and Tribune and is written by columnist Steve Brandt. It is timely and directly applicable to proposed Route 7 of NineMileCreekRegionalTrail, especially since it evaluates current south Minneapolis experience with creek-based versus road-based trails similar to Route 7. Congested, high-volume ValleyViewRd would be made even more dangerous and disadvantageous to bikers (and pedestrians!) than the busy Minneapolis streets cited in Brandt's article if Route 7 is adopted since the street would be made narrower with fewer lanes for traffic and eliminating and/or significantly narrowing parking lanes and shoulders.

Thank you.

Diane Fansler

>

200

-----Original Message-----

From: Diane Fansler-Wald [mailto:dianefansler@yahoo.com]

Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2010 11:29 AM

To: Alice Hulbert; Ann Swensen; Joni Bennett; Jim Hovland; John Keprios; Mary Brindle; Kelly Grissman; Keith Downey; Scot Housh; Alice Hulbert; Ann Swensen; Brian Hallock; Bill and Rose Korst; D A Fansler; Joni Bennett; Jim Hovland; John Keprios; Mary Brindle; Kelly Grissman; Polly Bowles; Keith Downey; Scot Housh

Subject: 2 attachments re: Route 7 of NineMileRegionalTrail

I am attaching 2 documents for you to print, distribute, read, and respond to regarding proposed Route 7 of the NineMileRegionalTrail.

1-The first document is an Addendum to my Letter which I emailed to you yesterday.

2-The second document is a letter written and signed by my neighbor, Mr. John Howells. John has sought my assistance in forwarding his letter to you for action because he is seriously ill and homebound at his residence at 6725 ValleyView Rd.

Thank you.

Diane A Fansler

201

From: Aliya Johnson [mailto:aliyahappygirl@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2010 4:29 PM
To: NineMileTrail@ThreeRiversParkDistrict.org; Lynette Biunno
Subject: I like the regional creek trail

Dear city and park leaders,

I think that the trail should be by the Edina High School because I think that a lot of high schoolers would use the trail to get to school. If the trail is made there and when I am in high school I would like to take the trail.

Thank you.

Aliya Johnson
5844 St. Johns Avenue in Edina

--

aLiYa JoHnSoN
aliyahappygirl@gmail.com

:-) B-) :-D :-O :-T :-P

() ()

(= " =)

(") (")

aliya johnson rox her sox!! (that's why i tend 2 not wear them!!)

202

-----Original Message-----

From: Andrew Heyer [mailto:andrew@heyer.us]

Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2010 3:23 PM

To: NineMileTrail@ThreeRiversParkDistrict.org; Lynette Biunno

Subject: Support for creek-side route of Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail

Please direct this email to:

- Edina Mayor and City Council Members
- Edina Parks Director John Keprios
- Three Rivers Park District Commissioners
- Three Rivers Park District Senior Planner Kelly Grissman

Re: Support for creek-side route of Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail

I have been a resident of Edina for five years, own a home, and paid \$9,801 in Edina property taxes. Our City has a reputation for meeting the needs of our residents with services of the highest quality. Our Park system provides outstanding facilities for many activities including hockey and skating, golf, baseball, soccer, football, swimming, basketball, and many others. However, we have been lagging behind our neighboring cities in one area: trails.

A wonderful and nationally known trail system has been evolving around us and we haven't had an opportunity to be a part of it. Whether you bike, walk, or run for recreation or commute, access to the trail system is tremendously important. The proposed Nine Mile Creek Trail routed through the creek area (not the road segments) will provide Edina residents of all ages a safe and enjoyable route for exercise or commuting.

The road segments will be busy and noisy with cars and will not attract cyclists, let alone walkers. The Three Rivers Park District Environmental Assessment Worksheet states there is no serious environmental reason to oppose the creek-based trail.

The trail will be a huge benefit to the residents of Edina. Count me in favor of the Nine Mile Creek trail, through the natural spaces.

Andrew Heyer
5717 Deville Dr
Edina, MN 55436

203

From: Artem Johnson [mailto:artemcandyman@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2010 4:28 PM
To: Lynette Biunno; NineMileTrail@ThreeRiversParkDistrict.org
Subject: Please approve the trail

Dear city and park leaders: I think we should have the trail going from one end of Edina to the other because it would help kids like us and grown ups get around in Edina, for example Edina high school area. That is what I think we should do. I would use it later when I am older.

Thank you.

Artem Johnson
5844 St Johns Ave EDINA

204

From: Helou, Emelie F [mailto:Emelie.F.Helou@HealthPartners.Com]

Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2010 4:09 PM

To: Lynette Biunno

Cc: 'NineMileTrail@ThreeRiversParkDistrict.org'

Subject:

To the Edina City Council,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the Edina Nine Mile Creek Trail system proposed by the Three Rivers Park District. I also would like the opportunity offer constructive suggestions. I have concerns about a particular segment of the Trail because it affects my family's home. I also have concerns about the Trail in general.

ROUTE 5F

CONCERNS

I am particularly concerned about route 5F. Route 5F was introduced without any community input, which is disrespectful to Edina homeowners and taxpayers. In addition, when more information was requested of Three Rivers, they were very defensive, and would not take questions. This left no mechanism for Edina homeowners and taxpayers to express appropriate concerns to them.

Route 5F raises significant safety concerns, not only for our family and home, but also relating to the proximity of the bicycle traffic to the motor vehicle traffic and safety.

- Route 5F is less desirable than Route 5E for safety reasons. If Route 5F runs along the west side of Tracy north of Hwy 62, it runs in front of the fire station. This would interfere with Edina's emergency response system. In addition, it will cross entry and exit ramps to Hwy 62, which is hazardous. Tracy Avenue also has traffic to/from school, and Countryside Park has many activities, and there is increased potential for accidents. On the south side of Hwy 62, the proposed Route 5F would run along the east side of Tracy, adjacent to a steep hill. If anyone falls off the trail, injuries could be severe.
- If Route 5F runs along the east side of Tracy south of Hwy 62, it exposes my mother's home. She is a senior living alone. Trail users could look down into her house and back yard from a second-story height, invading her privacy. In addition, her home would become more accessible. Currently, without a trail, several people make their way down the hill from Tracy or the on-ramp, through her backyard, and ring her door bell. Again, she is a senior living alone, and this raises safety concerns for us. If this route is approved, at the very least a wall of large evergreen trees, and possibly a high fence, would need to be put up along the east side of Tracy Avenue extending along the on-ramp for Hwy 62 East. Three Rivers has not been forthcoming about any plans to protect personal homes or safety in this regard.

PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

In my opinion, Route 5 + 5E would have less impact on private property (both on the North and South side of Hwy 62) than Route 5F, and seems more desirable overall. If Trail 5F is seriously being considered, it makes more sense for the trail to run along the West side of Tracy south of Hwy 62, since this does not involve any private homes, and no one lives at the church. It could then cross Tracy at the Valley Lane intersection. It should be noted that this is dangerous crossing point because of the traffic streaming rather rapidly down the hill from the high school. Stop signs would need to be put in there, and this would slow traffic in the area.

Another option that has not been entertained is having the trail run near Colonial Church, behind the Fire station, and cross Hwy 62 with a new bridge that is west of Tracy, and runs west of or behind Creek Valley Church. This would avoid all the intersection crossings, the fire station, and private homes. This seems like a safer path all around, and should be seriously considered.

NINE MILE CREEK TRAIL

Three Rivers Park District proposed this trail to connect Edina to the trail systems of Hopkins and Richfield. The initial proposal was for a trail along Nine Mile Creek. However, because of environmental and cost concerns, road based alternatives have been proposed. These routes run in front of or behind numerous Edina residents' homes, and cross busy intersections and highway entrances. Since the road based alternatives no longer run along Nine Mile Creek, perhaps new trails should be considered altogether, i.e. trails that maintain privacy of Edina residents, run through more scenic areas, and are not a safety risk.

I propose the following trail – route 1 to route 3, then continue east on Vernon. There could be an off shoot to connect the Bredesen Park trail. The main trail could then continue east on Vernon, and cross Hwy 100 at Eden Avenue. The trail could then run south along Wilson Road. It could then be taken along the ramp between Hwy 62 W and Hwy 100 N, run along Hwy 62/64th Street, and then cross Hwy 62 to Cornelia Park. The later portion would require further investigation because there are homes in this area, but perhaps the trail could run alongside the Hwy and be fenced to exclude it from neighborhood. A bridge already exists that crossed Hwy 62. There could be an off shoot to connect the Cornelia Park trail. The trail could then be taken along Valley View Road to 69th Street to connect to the Target-Centennial Lakes path. This route would utilize wide streets where there may be existing sidewalks, or room for a wider trail, and don't pass near as many homes. Of course, this would need to be studied in more detail and input obtained from neighborhood that may be affected.

I also wanted to comment that perhaps the residents of Edina would like a walking path in addition to a bike route, to allow for more recreation via walking or running, not only biking.

Please take into consideration my concerns regarding Route 5F in particular, and my suggestions for a more comprehensive trail system. Edina residents would like to be assured that prior to approving Nine Mile Creek Trail, all other options have been considered - options that preserve trees and wildlife, and Edina neighborhoods and homes. This would be welcomed by Edina residents.

If you are interested in exploring these ideas further, please call me. I would be happy to meet in person, and attend meetings.

Sincerely,

Emelie F. Helou, M.D.

Work - Health Partners, 3366 Oakdale Ave No Ste 200, Robbinsdale, MN, 763-587-9266

Home - 5616 Doron Drive, Edina, MN 55439, 507-358-8789

This e-mail and any files transmitted with it are confidential and are intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you are not the intended recipient or the individual responsible for delivering the e-mail to the intended recipient, please be advised that you have received this e-mail in error and that any use, dissemination, forwarding, printing, or copying of this e-mail is strictly prohibited.

If you have received this e-mail in error, please immediately notify the HealthPartners Support Center by telephone at (952) 967-6600. You will be reimbursed for reasonable costs incurred in notifying us. HealthPartners R001.0

205

From: Gene Kay [mailto:genekay2@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2010 2:34 PM
To: NineMileTrail@ThreeRiversParkDistrict.org; Lynette Biunno
Subject: I support the creek side route for the new trail in Edina

Dear sirs/ mam,

I am writing to express my support for the creek side route on the proposed 9-mile creek bike trail through Edina.

The creek side route is public property, it is more scenic and safer than the alternate street routes proposed by the adjoining property owners. I have walked near the creek and biked through Edina on many occasions and find that in general Edina does not have good bike commuting or bike recreational options.

I think the bike system in our metro is a real asset and has greatly improved the quality of life for me and my family. Edina needs to have some safe connections between Hopkins and Hyland park. In fact these trails influenced our choice of homes over 18 years ago.

Regards,
Gene Kay
Plymouth MN

--

Gene Kay
Ergonomist, Developer, Owner
ErgoAdvocate®
W: 952-960-1917
C: 612-308-9099
genekay@ErgoAdvocate.com
WWW.ErgoAdvocate.com

206

From: benn hulbert [mailto:bennhulbert@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2010 12:40 PM
To: Lynette Biunno; NineMileTrail@ThreeRiversParkDistrict.org
Subject: support for the 9 Mile Creek Trail

To Edina Mayor, Edina City Council, 3 Rivers Parks Commissioners, Park Director John Keprios, Project Director Kelly Grissman

I am a lifelong resident of Edina and have been a captain of the Edina High School Nordic Ski Team for 3 seasons (2007-2010). Although Minnesota folks like to complain about long snowy winters, we skiers love them, and I can tell you in recent years they are longer than they are snowy. When our high school season starts there is no snow, so we work on our skills and conditioning by rollerskiing. There are essentially no trails in Edina, so we rollerski on the streets near the high school. Rollerskis have no brakes, and the bumpy pavement, hills, and traffic make for a challenging practice some days. Sunset comes very early leaving us with little light towards the end of practice, making it more difficult to spot debris in the road. It would be great for our team to have a 3 Rivers Park trail passing through the High School Campus. It would be safer for rollerskiing, and safer for all the other sports that use running for training from the High School. The trail along the creek would be the safest alternative, since we already struggle with cars backing out of driveways not seeing us and not understanding that we have no brakes. The smooth clean surface would also be safer for the runners, who currently run along the streets because there are no sidewalks in many areas near the school. When the snow finally does come the trail will be a great area for on snow practice and will link to ski trails in Bredesen Park. The 9 Mile Creek Trail will also benefit students and teachers who chose not to drive to school, and will be a place athletes of all ages can work out safely. Edina has needed a trail like this for a long time and I think that the plan to build along the creek is the right one to bring the most benefit to our City.

Benn Hulbert

207

From: Dorothy Goldie [mailto:dorothygoldie@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2010 1:04 PM
To: NineMileTrail@ThreeRiversParkDistrict.org; Lynette Biunno
Subject: creek side route

I am writing to express my strong support for the creek-side route of the Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail through Edina. I believe it represents the safest and best option for our citizens. This will create a new park that will link together many of Edina's existing parklands, and open up public land for the public to enjoy

Dorothy Goldie
dorothygoldie@comcast.net
612-280-7414

208

From: bboyd01@gmail.com [mailto:bboyd01@gmail.com] **On Behalf Of** Brad Boyd
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2010 9:26 AM
To: NineMileTrail@ThreeRiversParkDistrict.org; Lynette Biunno
Cc: Kirk Johnson; andrew@heyer.us
Subject: Support for Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail through Parkland

I am writing in support of the Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail, through Edina.

Please ensure my message is directed to the following:

Edina Mayor and City Council Members
Edina Parks Director John Keprios
Three Rivers Park District Commissioners
Three Rivers Park District Senior Planner Kelly Grissman
Edina Mayor, City Council, Parks Director, and TRPD Commissioners:

As an Edina resident and active bike commuter and bicycling advocate, I ask that you help establish the Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail through Edina. While the trail would require a significant investment, the extraordinary recreational, family, community, and health benefits in having a regional trail will be of great value to Edina residents, to the city, and to the region. It shows Edina supports its community, alternative transportation and recreation options, and is willing to make investments in the good of the community.

A safe, comfortable, and inviting trail for walkers, joggers, and riders of all ages and skill levels would serve to promote our Edina, its parks, and its ability to stand out as a city that offers tremendous amenities for its residents and for the area. Investing in this regional trail would be an asset to the community. Recreational facilities are a decision factor for many prospective homeowners and a trail would be a selling point for Edina home sellers.

I believe the regional trail should run through parks to enhance the walking and riding experience, versus existing roadways which have increased levels of car exhaust and noise. Additionally, bike safety and walking safety issues already abound through the city of Edina, where walkers, bikers, joggers, and families with strollers compete for space on the roadways, particularly in areas without sidewalks, bike lanes, or trail space. This trail will not solve the problem in and of itself, but it will reduce the impact

In summary, I urge you to approve the proposed regional trail and select routes through parks.

Sincerely,
Brad Boyd

5212 Benton Avenue, Edina, MN

Want to improve the environment?

Sustainable living starts with sustainable thinking ~ visit SustainableThinking.org for more information about how you can help.

209

From: brenfran@comcast.net [mailto:brenfran@comcast.net]

Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2010 4:19 PM

To: Lynette Biunno

Subject: Non-support for Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail

Mayor Hovland and Edina Council Members:

I do not support the proposed Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail through Edina. I understand how such a trail could be beneficial to Edina residents and residents of surrounding areas. The recreation value is easily proven, but at what cost? What ultimately is the monetary cost to our residents and what is the cost to the environment? From everything that I have read and listened to, I have not seen enough study done to support MY support for such a project. I feel that TRPD is rushing the research and possibly ignoring the bottom lines in order to qualify for government funding.

My biggest hesitation is the questionable cost of the trail. At this time, in these dire economic times, I do not know anybody with extra tax dollars. It's a time to not be spending excessively and a time to focus on essentials.

My backyard is adjacent to the Nine Mile Creek Wetlands, and I do worry about the environmental impact of a trail and the people on it. I am disappointed in the fact that, once again, a city cannot leave open undeveloped land alone. I do worry about increasing accessibility to our neighborhood and the safety of our children. We use Walnut Ridge Park almost daily. We love that we can send our kids to the park with friends to play baseball or tennis and KNOW that they are safe. Definitely "Stranger Danger" will be amplified. I moved to Edina five years ago from Los Angeles. As a family we were seeking safely, open spaces, and freedoms. We found it all in Edina. I am not saying our dreams are wiped out by the trail, but saying it's disappointing for my city to hastily make a decision, based on incomplete research/evidence, that affects so many residents and SO MANY DOLLARS \$\$\$\$.

I am a concerned resident of Edina, and right now I do not support the Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail. I encourage you Mayor Hovland and Edina City Council Members to consider further research and assessment BEFORE approving the trail, or consider no trail at this time.

Sincerely,
Brenda Francis
5600 Parkwood Lane
Edina, MN. 55436
952-933-2144

210

From: Bruce Jackson [mailto:bruce.jackson@hcxresearch.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2010 5:18 PM
To: ninemilecreektrail@ThreeRiversParkDistrict.org
Cc: Lynette Biunno; rlubar@comcast.net
Subject: Nine Mile Creek Comments

Dear Three Rivers Park District,

I am an Edina resident, cyclist, and opponent to the idea of a bike trail on the Nine Mile Creek watershed. This trail does not connect us to anywhere we want to go, it removes valuable green space from the city, and the city will likely incur additional operating expenses. Edina has made excellent progress in becoming more bicycle-friendly since publishing the City of Edina Comprehensive Bicycle Transportation Plan (CBTP) in 2007, but I believe the cycling residents of Edina would be better served by other projects. We participated in the original survey regarding regional trails, and this proposed trail is not what I envisioned when I said I was supportive.

The trail to nowhere. The most desired destination is downtown Minneapolis, and this trail does nothing to provide a more efficient connection to the Cedar Lake trail and the North Cedar Lake trail. The proposed route goes too far west. A more efficient north-south connection would be the CP Trail proposed in the CPTP, running along the railroad by Highway 100. The re-paving of Blake road has helped tremendously, although the route around Mirror Lake is still a little tight. You could fix that easily with a fraction of the budget proposed for the Nine Mile Creek trail. Other highly desirable destinations would be the Three Rivers Park at Bryant Lake or the Hylands Lake Park Reserve in Bloomington.

Destruction of green space. The mission of Three Rivers Park District is to promote environmental stewardship through recreation and education in a natural resources-based park system, and I fail to see how developing flood plains and wetlands meets the conservation-oriented objectives of the Park District. In addition, the proposed route will adversely impact the character of Walnut Creek Park. Small children and high-speed cyclists generally don't mix well. There will no doubt be additional wear and tear on the facilities as well.

In short, this trail is being positioned as a gift to the citizens of Edina, but really it is taking away green space and parks while offering little improvement in connectivity to regional trails or desired destinations like downtown Minneapolis. In addition, we will be saddled with the additional operating expenses and higher taxes. I firmly believe that better, cheaper options exist.

Thank you for your consideration,
Bruce Jackson
5716 Continental Drive
Edina, MN 55436